

DOCKET NO.: MSFT-0579/167505.02
Application No.: 09/934,071
Office Action Dated: June 15, 2004

PATENT
REPLY FILED UNDER EXPEDITED
PROCEDURE PURSUANT TO
37 CFR § 1.116

REMARKS

Claims 1-15 and 18-40 are pending in the present application. Claims 1, 15, 18, 30 and 31 are the independent claims. In the Official Action, dated June 15, 2004, claims 1-15, 18-35 and 38-40 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C § 103(a) as allegedly obvious over Blatter et al., U.S. Patent No. 2003/0014407 A1 ("Blatter"), in view of Blum et al., U.S. Patent No. 5,918,223 ("Blum"). Claims 36 and 37 were acknowledged as presenting allowable subject matter, but were objected to for depending from a rejected base claim and intervening dependent claims.

Rejection of Claims 1-35 and 38-40 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a)

Claims 1-15, 18-35 and 38-40 were rejected under 35 U.S.C § 103(a) as allegedly obvious over Blatter in view of Blum. In view of the Declaration submitted herewith under 37 CFR § 1.131 by inventor Christopher B. Weare, Applicant respectfully submits that the subject matter of the present application was invented prior to the effective date of Blatter, as defined in that Section. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully request that Blatter be removed as a reference applicable to the outstanding claims.

Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections to claims 1-15 and 18-35 and 38-40 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) is thus earnestly requested.

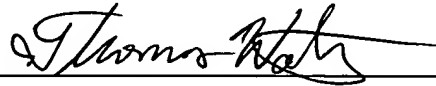
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CONCLUSION

Applicant believes that the present reply is responsive to each of the points raised by the Examiner in the Office Action, and submits that Claims 1-15 and 18-40 of the application are in condition for allowance. Favorable consideration and passage to issue of the application at the Examiner's earliest convenience is earnestly solicited.

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